

SOUTH CAROLINA'S DECEIT.

The Sale of Plantations—Rich Lands
Going to Waste Under Carpet-Bag
Rule.

Correspondence of the New York Sun.
COLLETON Co., S. C., Nov. 1.

Hard it is, even for the most vivid imagination, to comprehend the most deplorable abyss into which this state has been hurried—a state whose soil, besides producing cotton, corn, peas, rye, oats, barley, tobacco, hay, grasses and the various delicate fruits of the tropical climate, is stored with gold, marble, slate, granite, guano, ochres, both red and yellow, porcelain clay, limestone, talco and various other minerals. Corruption and bribery have thrown off their sable garments and "run riot" through her borders. Hundreds of acres which were once white with cotton, now lie a barren waste. Laborers are plentiful, but they prefer idleness to work; and the poor planter, who endeavors to retrieve his losses, is only sunk deeper into the mire. From a careful estimate I find that over ninety-one per cent. of those who have engaged in cultivation since the war have lost money, and over seventy per cent. of the arable lands of the lower portion of this state have changed hands since '65. As each "pay day for the taxes" rolls around truly melancholly is the visage of the real estate owners.

Recently I was at a sheriff's sale. The aforesaid official was a tall, thin, gawky foreigner. Thousands of acres of cotton, rice and phosphate lands were sold at mere nominal prices. Seeing near me a man with brilliant eyes, but in very shabby clothes, I said that it was distressing to see the old landmarks torn away. "Oh," replied he, "I was once the owner of that three thousand acre tract which has just been sold, but the taxes were so enormous that I could not pay them. The same tract has been sold four times beneath the sheriff's hammer since '65. My forefathers received it from the English crown, but it will not be sold again." "Why," asked I, "is the purchaser wealthy?" With a look of contempt, he said, "Do you see that equine-eyed, red-bearded chap, over whose countenance a just God has cast a radiance which once ornamented the walls of King Sing? He came here after the war with barely rags on his back, but he called himself a Republican, and is now worth his thousands. Furthermore, since he is a Radical, he can return the land at one-sixth its value, and nothing will be said to him, while when I returned it at its true valuation it was doubled. This completely swamped me. Did you see what Congressman Rainey, our negro representative, said about so arranging the taxes as to give the lands to the negroes? The whole plot has been well laid, and our congressmen knew what he was speaking about. I opposed secession with all my influence. It was my pride on the plains of Mexico to endanger my life in defense of the Stars and Stripes, and when in '60 the ordinance of secession was passed, it seemed to me as though I had lost my country—for Carolina without the Union could not be my country, and the Union without Carolina seemed strange; but to-day, sir, when I behold the glory of my state gone and see her bleeding from every pore, while negroes, carpet-baggers and scalawags, countenanced by the president, hover around and draw out the life-blood from the prostrate body, which like vampires, they have endeavored to fan asleep, I feel like exclaiming, 'Would to God Dixie's flag had triumphed over my country's banner. Ah, sir, I have always been proud of our republic, and when in Europe my pulses always throbbed with pleasure on seeing the Stars and Stripes. To-day when I see myself robbed of all by our 'Ring streaked and striped legislature,' I feel like exclaiming, 'Lealty is a sin, and was unto that man who is faithful to his country.' The man you see surrounded by that crowd was one of the warmest advocates of secession; but if you were to hear him speak of the 'whip' and 'iron' you would think he had been an inmate of Uncle Tom's cabin. But excuse me for having spoken so long. All I can say is God save the Stars and Stripes from such polluting hands." I learned that the gentleman with whom I had been speaking was once one of the most influential men of the state, and that his open avowal of Union principles was the great impediment in the way of his political aspirations.

The average decrease of the value of property throughout the South is five hundred per cent. since 1860. Before the war the taxable property of South Carolina was valued at \$185,000,000, and in 1870 it had fallen to \$184,000,000, and the decrease has been steadily progressing up to the present time; but, *mirabile dictu*, the taxation before the war was only a little over \$400,000 annually, but the annual taxation of 1870 was about \$2,100,000, yet the state debt has increased from \$1,000,000 to something between \$16,000,000 and \$20,000,000.

The Kansas City Times states that there will be at least ten opposition majority in the Kansas legislature on July 1st, although twenty-five Radical senators held over.

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Original Entries, Warranty
Deeds, Bonds, Trusts, Mort-
gages, Bonds, Deeds, Wills,
Judgments, Liens, Tax Sales, &c.
Showing Condition of Title to all
REAL ESTATE.

AND ALL THE REALTY INTERESTS OF INDIVIDUALS.

We have, at great expense, completed the abstract, as set forth above, and are prepared to give ALL the facts of record that may POSSIBLY AFFECT the TITLE TO EVERY TRACT AND LOT in the county, and also a complete expose of the recorded real estate interest of EVERY INDIVIDUAL whose name appears on the records.

For Reliability and Extent of Information

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If you are about to purchase or take a mortgage on real estate in this county, you can inform yourself of the exact condition of the record title by procuring an abstract at our office of the lot or tract in question.

If you are a Judgment Creditor, you can procure an abstract of the real estate interest of the judgment debtor at our office. Owners of real estate are cordially invited to call and examine our work, and we can assure them that it will be to their interest to do so, as titles in this county are very defective.

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